11-4-09

Upward Bound - Valley-based program supports students. »2

Smokeless Valley - Stick that in your pipe and smoke it! »3

Going Bronco - Jared and Jerusha Hess' new film "Gentlemen Broncos" takes tension to the limit. »5

Valley football loses 45 - 28 to Pierce College last Saturday. »6

los angeles valley college's

VALLEY STAR

the independent student newspaper

VALLEY CHOIR

Singers of the choral department sing "Music for an Autumn Moon." Slideshow showcases

»online

lavalleystar.com | November 4, 2009 | Volume 71, Issue 7

I-TAPPED POTENTIAL

SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

THE ORANGE LINE HELPS - A bad economy and soaring gas prices have people seeking alternative means of transportation. The metro stops at the corner of Fulton Avenue and Burbank Boulevard at the Valley College station and is especially busy in the morning and evening hours.

IVAN ZUNIGA
STAFF WRITER

The hassle of trying to find parking and having to sit in traffic for long hours is what most students want to avoid as they try to reach Valley College on time. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) offers students affordable transportation for those who want to save money and get to class in time to find a good seat.

Metro and the Los Angeles Community College District have worked together to provide low-cost public transportation passes which encourage students to consider public transportation. Los Angeles City College, Southwest College, Pierce College, Valley College, and Mission College are some of the campuses that are currently under this program and have already sold nearly 30,000 passes among community college students according to Metro's Institution Pass program.

"I saved a lot of money buying the TAP card," said Valley student Brandy Faye. "The card comes in handy every semester and it helps me get around easily."

The I-TAP card provides students with access to Metro buses and Metro Rail lines seven days over a six-month period for the price of $15 to students enrolled in at least 12 units. The cards are available in the business office for students who qualify.

Depending on how much students drive, riding to school can cost up to $90 - $120 dollars per month; the card is an easy way to save cash, which many students desperately need.

The program was designed to save money and reduce carbon emissions by advising more people to use public transportation. It is part of LACCD's commitment to the community college district's overall "green" strategy.

As students purchase the passes, they are more likely to leave their cars at home and take the bus to school. This helps to decrease the amount of traffic congestion and overcrowded parking lots on campuses, while saving money at the same time. The school's dedication to a greener campus and environment is also aided in the process.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

A New Cycle Begins

The hiring of Mark McGwire opens old wounds for major league baseball.

ONLINE SLIDESHOW

Monarch Football

A behind-the-scenes look of the inner workings of Valley's football team.

ONLINE GALLERY

Club Day

Online Gallery showcases last week's club day events.

These full stories and more can be read online @ www.lavalleystar.com

ASU Support Smoke-Free Valley

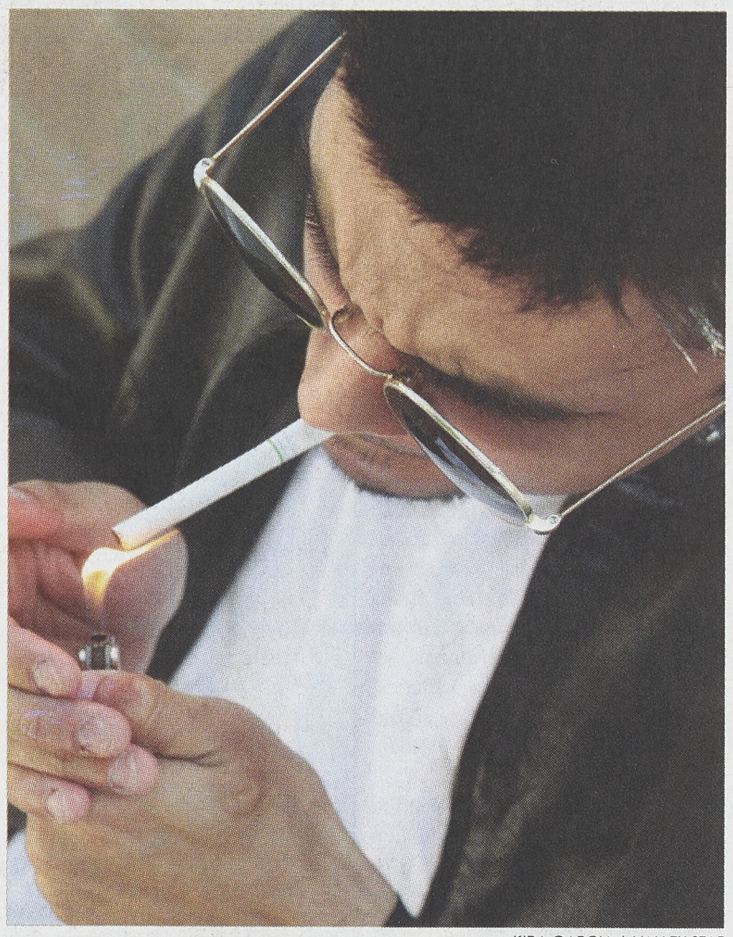
ASU ends the third week of debate with change in stance on the issue of smoking.

JONATHAN SEELEY
STAFF WRITER

In order to follow suit with 19 other community colleges in California, the Associated Student Union voted 6-3 on oct.27, in favor of making Valley College a smoke-free campus.

Valley student Chris Mower spoke on behalf of smokers' rights while Paul Pastora spoke in support of a smoke-free campus. Each received five minutes to reiterate what they had presented in previous debates. These students represented all of the students on campus, because they were the only students who showed up besides the ASU members.

The main concerns the three dissenting ASU members had with making the campus entirely smoke-free were due to the traditional lack of enforcement by campus police toward violators who smoke outside of the 12 smoking designated areas on campus. Deputy Ricky Baker, team leader of the college sheriff's office, came in to answer questions the ASU had in regards to their concerns.



KIRA GARCIA | VALLEY STAR

"In terms of enforcement," Baker said. "We react to spikes in crime rates. Crime goes up and down. If you ban smoking on campus then the number of people violat-

|See **SMOKING**, Page 2|

ANA ROSA MURILLO | VALLEY STAR

STUDENT TRANSFER - Many students take the time to stop and receive information about transfer programs used by California universities.

Career/Transfer Fair Offers Students Options

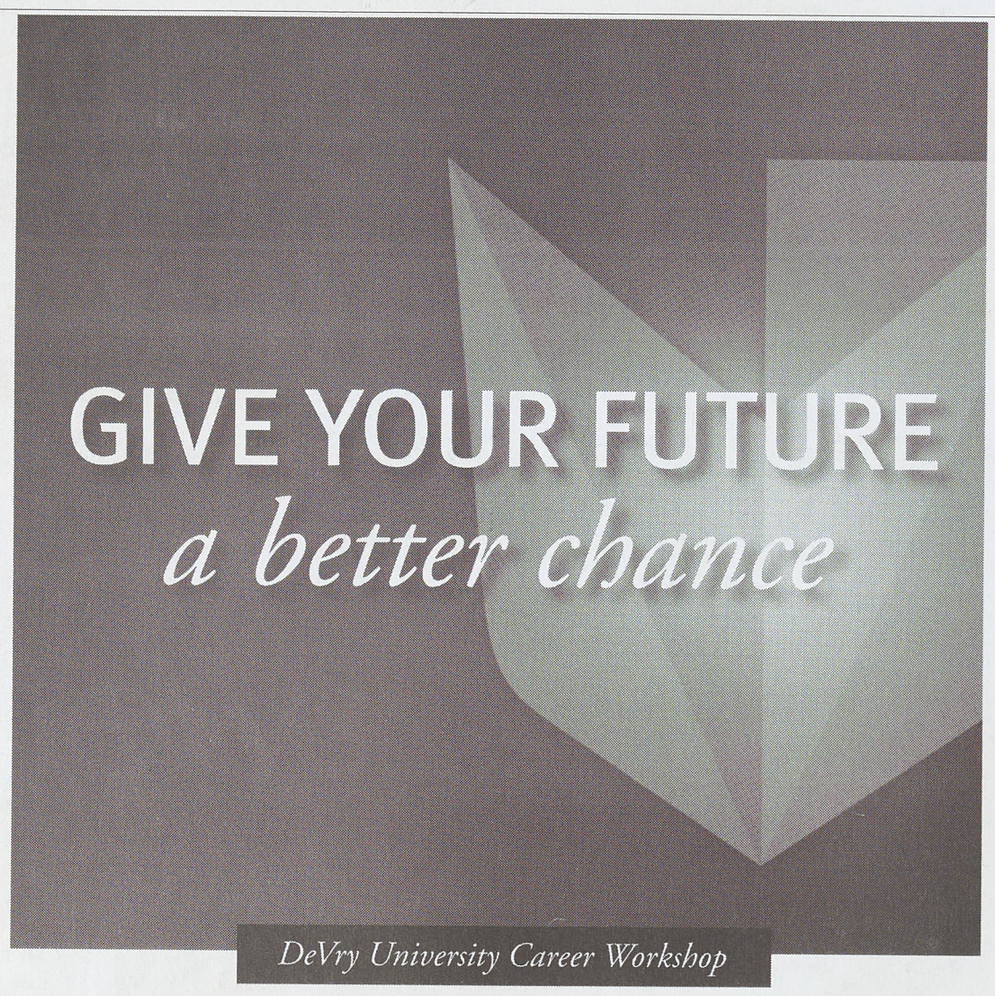
Valley students attend the recent Career/ Transfer fair, held in Monarch Square.

NATALIE KESHISHIAN
STAFF WRITER

The yellow and green balloons representing Valley College were flying in every direction; however, the windy weather didn't stop students from attending Tuesday's Career/Transfer fair. The event, which was sponsored by the LAVC Career/Transfer Center, consisted of more than 15 representatives from universities, including; Cal State Northridge, USC, UC Merced and more.

"I'm here to basically let students know what we're looking for [as far as admissions] and also provide a Q&A," said Emily Toffelmire, assistant director of admissions at USC. According to Toffelmire, 1,400 new students were enrolled last year out of 8,700 appli-

|See **FAIR**, Page 2|



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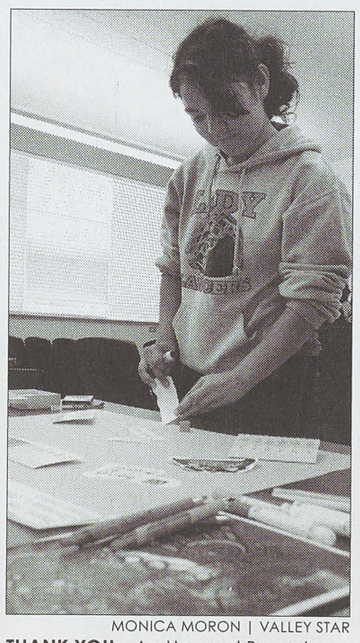
Upward Bound Gives High School Students Hope

Valley College program promotes higher education.

SUSAN MASHEVICH
STAFF WRITER



MONICA MORON | VALLEY STAR
THANK YOU - An Upward Bound student helps put together a thank you card for CSUN after taking part in a tour.

Within the Valley College Campus Center is an office dedicated to the furthering of education for high school students from neighboring Grant and Van Nuys high schools. Upward Bound provides opportunities for high school students interested in going on to higher education. Every year, 50-55 high school seniors take advantage of the Upward Bound program for tutoring, college applications, college credits and motivational support. These services help students who may have never before thought about going to a university, become acquainted and enthusiastic about the experience.

In a discussion about the importance of young adults going on to higher education, Bobbi McDaniel, director of Upward Bound, stated that "[Education] makes for a happier person. These are first generation college-going students who may or may not be academically challenged."

McDaniel explained that the program's participants are made up of a group of students who most likely will be the first in their families to attend college and face various challenges, even if they already have good grades.

"One third of students in the program could end up coming to Valley College – There should be a path from Grant's back door to our back door."

Malkit Samra is currently an 11th grade student who is part of the Upward Bound program. He'd seen their newsletter posted at his high school and had already planned on applying to universities before joining Upward Bound.

"[Upward Bound] helps first generation students go to college," he said. "It makes it easier and quicker to get into college."

Although many students are not familiar with the process of applying to universities, Upward Bound encourages and assists them with this decision. It seems the biggest challenge is transforming the mentality from "if" they go to college to "where" they go to college.

Clive Gordon works at the Career/Transfer Center and is also a counselor for the Upward Bound program. He stated that the hardest part is to get the students to "...be motivated after they leave [his] office."

The Upward Bound program promotes the importance of higher education and shows kids coming out of inner city high schools that they have a choice. So far this year, 13 of the 50 students; who are seniors are eligible to apply to universities, and as Gordon excitedly exclaimed; two have already completed and submitted their college applications.

SMOKING

Continued from page 1

ing will rise, and, therefore, we will increase enforcement. It would actually be easier to police a campus with an outright ban."

Baker went on to say it's up to the ASU to educate people in a smoking awareness week, where new policy would be made clearer to the students. The police said they would support whatever decision the ASU reached, and favored increasing the number of smoking areas as a good solution.

ASU Vice President Ian Coyne claimed a previous administration had moved the importance of smoking enforcement up a few notches in severity on the sheriff's ordinance charter, and hadn't seen a change in the behavior of the campus police department. This prompted Katrina Hererra, Commissioner of Political Affairs, to ask how many people are cited every month for smoking violations.

"I don't have any numbers with me, but less than 10 per month," Baker responded. "We issue a lot of warnings. Technically, someone can go to jail for this, but that hasn't happened yet. Citations are the main form of enforcement, and we issue somewhere around 25-50 warnings."

Coyne later remarked he assumed the number of citations were probably far lower than 10 per month.

Commissioner of Evening Division, Kazooba Kawamara; Treasurer, Benjamin Moye; and Herrera maintained their original position that a smoke-free policy is equally as unenforceable as the current policy, and voted nay.

"This is a feel-good policy," said Kawamara, "It makes those involved feel good, but doesn't really solve, or help the situation."

Rachel Lewis, ICC Senate Representative, made the argument that Valley College is a small campus, and providing smoking areas on the outskirts of campus will not make smoking that inconvenient.

Commissioners of: Athletics, Stephanie Woods; Ethnic and Cultural Affairs, Nancy Pineda; Public Relations, Magi Metri; Student & Social Affairs, Patrick Thompson; and Lewis all voted in favor of a smoke-free Valley.

"How many people's lives are going to be saved," said Herrera, "and have their health improved by this kind of policy? Probably none."

The next phase of policy implementation will require Coyne, who abstained from voting with the executive council, to pitch the ASU's stance before the Faculty/College Council, where he'll represent the voice of the students by voting aye.

FAIR

Continued from page 1

cants.

Members of the LAPD and the US Army were dressed in uniform and ready to offer information on career options for students who are interested in that field.

Following the fair, dozens of students had the opportunity to attend several transfer/information workshops held by the universities present at the fair.

"I think it's good for the students who don't know as much [about transferring] and it's a good motivator," said ASU Secretary Nisha Ahmed, who plans to transfer next year. "They see all these schools who come and it definitely motivates them."

Cal. State University, Northridge was part of the workshop which helped students learn how to apply. Due to budget cuts, the university is cutting the spring semester from its schedule, according to Stacey Chen who works in the International Student Recruitment department at CSUN.

"Many students are rushing to apply or else they will have to wait another year," she said.

The career/transfer fair as well as workshops are beneficial, according to students such as Top Triamwong who is a freshman at Valley.

" There are a lot of good colleges here, I just came to look around," said Triamwong who plans to apply to schools such UCLA, USC and Berkeley, once he completes his requirements at Valley.

For more information about the fair and future ones, visit the Career/Transfer Center in the Administration Building room 126, or call (818) 947-2646.

THE VALLEY STAR STAFF & INFO

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H1N1 Vaccine Worth Risk

With the safety of the H1N1 vaccine in question, some say it's worth the risk to protect yourself from the virus.

SUSAN MASHEVICH
STAFF WRITER

Back and forth debate on the legitimacy of H1N1 vaccines from skeptics staying cautionary beyond reason has caused unwarranted indecision and underestimation of this strain of influenza among Valley College students.

Friday, the World Health Organization held a briefing with the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on immunization to discuss H1N1 flu. They said that on a global level, the majority of people contracting the flu are teenagers and young adults, while the largest number of hospitalizations due to the flu is young children.

"Uh no," said Valley student Anthony Gumallino when asked if he would get the vaccine. "But, I probably should considering I'm getting sick, like today I'm not really feeling great."

The Food and Drug Administration and the Center approved the vaccine for Disease Control in September. Kathleen Sebelius, Health & Human Services Secretary stated that the President Obama, "Reached beyond his own government assets," to work with the Council of Science and Technology, and the National Bio-Defense Board in creating the vaccine.

Sebelius, called the vaccine, "–on target, safe and secure. I can assure you our doctors and scientists have been working around the clock to fill in the gap."

A history of rare vaccination symptoms and attachments to untested theories has made some Americans undoubtedly skeptical.

SAMUEL OKSNER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPER | VALLEY STAR

Cautionary actions combined with using standard flu prevention tactics are understandable, yet news of H1N1 being present in the second flu season points a red flag at high-risk groups. Those put on high priority to receive the H1N1 vaccination are children, young adults, health professionals, and women who are pregnant.

Organizations like Moms Against Mercury have used their cause to generalize towards all vaccines including a strong opposition towards the H1N1 vaccine. A recent debate on MSNBC's Dr. Nancy one of the Moms Against Mercury representatives described their dedication to stop people and especially children from being vaccinated even after being informed that the H1N1 vaccine does not contain mercury.

"I'm for it," said Valley student Ashley Jackson. "I'm going to get it soon, probably this week, I'm going to ask my doctor see what she says."

The basic problems with producing and distributing in a short amount of time have propelled more controversy around the vaccines. Forming personal opinions seem to become a bleak situation in choosing the risk of contracting or risk of vaccination symptoms. Concern organizations that are generally anti-vaccination honed in on these uncertainties.

Approximately 1.3 million out of 20 million doses have been sent to California, which as reported by the CDC is more than any other state in the U.S. For those with or without the vaccine, common courtesy and safety is to wash your hands, cough away from others, and stay home if you experience flu symptoms, as Secretary Napolitano said, "We are our own best protectors."

VALLEY VIEW | WILL YOU BE GETTING THE H1N1 VACCINE?

ANA ROSA MURILLO | VALLEY STAR

No. If you want to prevent H1N1 then just take all the normal precautions.
- CARMEN ALVARADO, NURSING

No, because I don't think that I'm in too much danger of getting infected by it.
- JOBETH PALACIO, MATHEMATICS

I already got it because all I really want is to be safe and healthy.
- NAOMI KAHLON, ENGLISH

Yes, because I'm a nursing student and I don't want to pass it to anyone else.
- CHERRY BORDALLO, NURSING

EDUARDO HERRERA| VALLEY STAR

Valley's Smoke Free Pipe Dream

Even if a smoke-free campus initiative is enacted, smokers will ignore it unless campus cops step up enforcement.

ROBERT R. KING
OPINION EDITOR

With the ASU reaching an agreement to support Valley College becoming a smoke-free campus, some questions remain as to whether or not a ban like this would work. Apart from lack of enforcement, stubborn smokers ignore the current rules and will ignore any future regulations.

"It could be better than before [for everybody]," said ASU Vice President Ian Coyne. "This removes all confusion. Under this, you cannot smoke on campus."

It should be no surprise that an ordinance like this could be enacted at Valley considering the fact that bars, restaurants, and some cities in California have banned smoking. One of the main reasons smoking is not allowed in places like these is that cigarette smoke affects people who choose not to smoke.

Yes, smoking is legal for those 18 and older, but so is drinking alcohol, for those 21 and over as long as they do so in designated areas and don't drive under the influence or make a public nuisance of themselves. Translation: it's ok as long as it doesn't affect other people.

"I'm not too keen on the smell," said Valley student Shyann King. "If people would just stick to the [designated] areas then everything would be ok."

That is the problem with smoking on campus. Sure, there are designated areas on campu and if smokers stayed within those areas the argument would be for non-smokers to avoid those areas.

Instead, many smokers choose to ignore the rules and as a result the rules will become stricter. Now the onus falls upon those who will be tasked to actually enforce the regulation if and when it is enacted.

The Hypocritical Bias of Today's Media

The liberal bias permeating today's mass media is brainwashing society into a left wing led downward spiral.

SARAH KNOWLES
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Society is easily influenced. The media has always known this and has played upon it for years; however, the liberal bias among so-called "news networks" has taken a step way over the standard we are used to. We now contend with a type of entertainment news blasphemy that dangerously feeds the impressionableness of much of the nation.

During a recent CNN interview, White House advisor Valerie Jarrett stated that Fox News was not living up to a "fair and balanced slogan." While this is definitely the case, Jarrett did not mention the obvious slant in every show on liberally renowned MSNBC. This only cements the idea that the government continues to sleep in the super-left bed beside Rachel Maddow and the rest.

This country was built upon freedom; for the government to be so outrageously hypocritical and in favor of one unfair broadcast over another is against everything the country was founded upon. It is clearly dangerous – the country cannot remain free if the media is hand-in-hand with the government.

MSNBC claims to be fair; however, the facts showing that the station is just as bad, if not worse than Fox News, speak for themselves. A recent example of the hypocrisy took place in August, when the channel showed footage of a gun owner carrying rifles. The station stated that the display was formed through racial undertones against President Obama. What the station failed to mention was that the gun owner was African American. While racism may have been present, it was coming from the station itself, which tries often to segregate the great melting pot that we live in and embrace. Trying to create racism where it does not exist is an MSNBC specialty and a danger that must be stopped.

Thankfully, ratings continue to drop for many of MSNBC'S commentaries. According to the TV by the Numbers Web site, "Countdown With Keith Olbermann" has lost 53 percent of its viewership since last year, while Glenn Beck's ratings continue to rise. Hopefully this is a sign of a country finally waking up to discovering its own truth, instead of what the media wants us to believe.

Plastic Surgery an Option for Students

Students today have the ability to improve their aesthetic selves through options provided by plastic surgeons.

NATALIE KESHISHIAN
STAFF WRITER

Recently, I was thinking about which of my friends have undergone cosmetic surgery and frankly I couldn't think of one female friend who hadn't had something done to themself, including myself. Cosmetic surgery is becoming as common among college students as dyeing hair.

Instead of saving money for things such as gas, food or books, some students are opting to save money for plastic surgery. If a person feels insecure about their appearance then they should be able to correct it in order to boost their confidence.

"In my opinion I believe having plastic surgery is a decision every person makes for themselves for his or her body. Personally, I like the idea of plastic surgery and would maybe do it one day if it helped me look better and feel good about myself," said student Lucine Manoukyan.

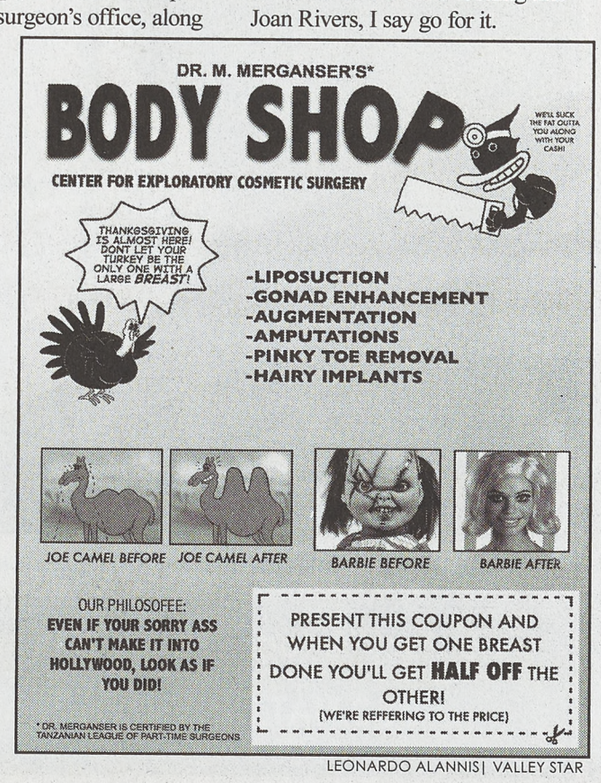
According to Qcc.cuny.edu plastic surgery procedures among college students have risen 35 to 45 percent over the past three years. In 2005 the number of college students receiving cosmetic procedures rose 300 percent. In addition, the most common procedures among college females are breast augmentation; rhinoplasty; liposuction; and among men, otoplasty (surgery of the ear); rhinoplasty; and liposuction.

As the stigma against plastic surgery continues to fade away, along with lowered surgery costs, the number of cosmetic procedures being performed continues to rise. Some doctors are even offering student discounts or buy one, get one free procedures. Many offer financing, which means a patient can have their new breasts now then make monthly payment towards them for the next couple of years.

The days of complaining to your friend about your chubby thighs or bumpy nose is no longer. For some time, women have longed for those big luscious lips; a 30-minute trip to the plastic surgeon's office, along with a few injections, and they too can walk out with luscious smackers. Students are even receiving Botox injections to get rid of facial lines.

Maybe it's because we live near Hollywood where perfection is sought after by most people. Either way, as plastic surgery continues to advance in technology and procedures, surgery is going to become even more common.

Students should know that any surgery does come with risks and they must take all the precautions. Such as choose a doctor that has been certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgeons. Be sure to shop around with different doctors and take a look at their work done on past patients. Finally, if a doctor recommends not getting a certain procedure done that you request, then it's best to take his/her advice. As long as we take all the precautions and stay within reasonable limits so we don't walk around looking like Joan Rivers, I say go for it.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(WE'RE REFFERING TO THE PRICE)
LEONARDO ALANNIS| VALLEY STAR

Commentary Being Mistaken for News

With lines blurred between commentary and news, today's mainstream media has many American's fooled.

JOSH SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

While it's funny, rabble-rousing, and cage-rattling to see rival media outlets snipe at one another about who said what, it also reflects the state of accountability of media who are more concerned with agenda setting and mud slinging than journalistic accountability

The most recent case was a hoax titled "Aristocracy Reborn," a satire piece detailing President Obama's disdain for the U.S. Constitution in his college thesis at Columbia University. Blogger Michael Leeden posted the story, thinking it was true, which inevitably landed in the hands of Rush Limbaugh. One could almost feel the unabashed hubris as the talk radio host proclaimed, "How is that hope and change working out for ya, folks?"

When it was later revealed that the thesis was bogus, Leeden was quick to retract. Limbaugh however was not only unapologetic, but defiant. "I don't care if these quotes are made up, I know Obama thinks it," said Limbaugh. "You know why Obama thinks it? Because I've heard him say it."

The proof that Limbaugh has to deliver the necessary haymaker to drop Obama and his administration to his knees showing the president as the Manchurian candidate that Limbaugh, Glenn Beck, Sean Hannity and Fox News always thought he was has yet to be seen.

Then again maybe they're just blowing smoke. A lot of smoke.

Sex sells, and death mixed with corruption is sexy to a lot of paranoid people. It's hard to take anything Beck says seriously since he considers himself to be an entertainer and a rodeo clown, yet there are millions who take his word as gospel.

It's irresponsible for Fox or any other major media outlet to offer themselves to people as sources of information only to have a vested interest in distorting the truth. The "Most Powerful Name in News," has a credit recession considering the Bush administration gave the channel talking points to Fox commentators to promote policy. Former White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan said he didn't do this with journalists. That's because he knows journalists aren't sheep to be herded in front of cameras.

While MSNBC hasn't committed as many major faux pas as Fox, Keith Olbermann and Chris Matthews can be polarizing figures from the left. With as many valid points as Olbermann has made, the "Countdown" host can do a better job of hiding his smirk while dismantling the republicans. The same can be said for Matthews.

The fact that these two channels have so much vitriol toward each other, a lot of the central points each side has gets lost in translation. It's more fun to watch an after school fight than an informative political debate. In these times where policy is going to making sweeping, wholesale, positive changes for the country, people need to be informed, not enraged.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

Letters to the editor can be sent to editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

LAVC Events

Now - Dec. 10
Parent & Baby Sessions for Infants (not walking)
Thursdays from 12-1 p.m. in Bungalow 49.
For more information, contact the Family Resource Center at (818) 778-5612 or huffgf@lavc.edu

November 4
Student Awareness Wake-Up Call Rally - Monarch Square 12- 2 p.m.
Political Action Coalition & ASU.
Contact: lavcpac@yahoo.com

November 5
CSUN Day Information Fair - Monarch Square 10 - 1 p.m.
Career/Transfer Center
(818) 947-2646

November 7
Mighty Echos - Doo Wop Rock 'n Roll Fall Fling - Monarch Hall 7:30 p.m.
LAVC Foundation & Emergency Services Department
Tickets: General Admission $20, Students/Seniors $15
LAVC Foundation
(818) 947-2619

November 9
Student Sustainability Workshop 2: Energy - Allied Health & Sciences 152
12 p.m.
LACCD Sustainable Works Project
Contact: SustainableWorks@Gmail.com

Dean's Reception - Monarch Hall 1 - 3 p.m.
Associated Student Union
Contact: Elizabeth Ortiz
(818) 947-2702

November 10
9 am- 3 pm ASU Club Day - Monarch Square
Contact: ASU (818) 947-2694

November 11
Veteran's Day Holiday – Campus Closed

Think Transfer!
Fall 2010 UC & CSU Application deadline Nov. 30
Apply @ www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply & www.csumentor.edu

November 4
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

November 5
CSUN Day Information Fair 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. @ Monarch Square
CSUN Application & Financial Aid Workshops 1p.m. - 2p.m. & 5:30p.m. - 6:30p.m.
College Personal Statement Workshop 1p.m. - 2:30 p.m. @ Humanities 100

November 9
UC Santa Cruz Rep
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
How to Transfer Workshop
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

November 10
How to Transfer Workshop
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
College Personal Statement Workshp 5 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

All activities held in the Career/Transfer Center (Administration 126) unless therwise indicated

Call 818.947.2646 for more information & sign-up for activities.

CLUB DAY OF THE DEAD HIGHLIGHTS CHICANO-LATINO HERITAGE MONTH

Clubs promote themselves as well as Latin American countries.

GUADALUPE GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

Clubs continued with their advertising and recruitment efforts during the Oct. 28 club day while simultaneously celebrating Latino-Hispanic Heritage Month. Each club decorated their tables to represent a Central and South American country. Nancy Pineda, ASU Commissioner of Ethnic & Culture Affairs proposed the theme "to bring students together in different activities."

Hillel, The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, represented Chile, handed out flyers with facts about the country, and raised awareness about the Jewish population in Chile.

"I'm glad we did this," said Hillel member Sarah Kheel who feels that when Hispanic heritage is celebrated, "South America gets left out."

Andrew Belmar, also a Hillel member, confirmed the benefits of the themed club day. "We've noticed a larger number of Chilean students on campus than I thought," he claimed.

The Black Student Union also attended club day and promoted their club and its events. "We're educating those people who don't know about black history," said BSU member Courtney Perkins. The BSU is open to any student, regardless of their ethnicity.

ANA ROSA MURILLO | VALLEY STAR
CLUBBIN' WITH THE DEAD - Jose Estrada feels the spirit of "Dia De Los Muertos".

Upcoming BSU events include an Open-Mic Night on Nov. 19 in Monarch Hall. They encouraged all students to come and share all their talents, not just singing, rapping or poetry.

Tau Alpha Epsilon (TAE), Valley's honor society, celebrated Dia de los Muertos and raised money by selling $5 Halloween costumes for kids, teens, and adults.

LaRaza also celebrated Dia de los Muertos and promoted the culture of Guatemala by handing out fresh, organic Zempasuchitl flowers (yellow marigolds that symbolize death), built Guatemalan dolls, and decorated sugar skulls. LaRaza promotes community awareness, higher education, and political action.

ASU also made tacos and accessories vendors available for the event. Mexico 68 provided music until 2 p.m. when students dispersed for their afternoon classes.

For information on Valley clubs, visit www.lavc.edu/asc/icc.html and contact the Inter Club Council.

VALLEY COLLEGE RAMPS UP ACCESSIBILITY

Wheelchair access to Valley's buildings is improving.

RAY BLUMHORST
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students who use a wheelchair to get to their classes are finding routes better designed to accommodate their needs as Valley adds more wheelchair access ramps around campus. The ramps' practicality compensates for the lack of architectural aesthetic. More disabled students can gain easier access to Valley classrooms.

SAMUEL OKSNER, CHIEF PHOOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR
GLIDING PAST - Valley College's ramps have made it easier for Cilo to get around.

"I'm happy Valley has made access for people in wheelchairs," said student Maria Hanifa. "It's made my life better."

Money from Propositions A, AA, and Measure J financed the new ramps. It also allows California's Division of the State Architect to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements in each Valley renovation or new construction project according to Tom Lopez, Director of Campus Facilities.

"Valley's plan is to see a path of travel from accessible parking to the facilities," said Lopez. "All accessibility issues are prioritized according to need and follow the ADA."

While accessibility on the Valley campus has improved in the last few years, one disabled student thinks wheelchair access ramps are still located too far apart.

"I would like to see ramps in locations between existing ramps," said Cilo Hidalgo Jr., pointing to the long row of steps on the west side of Monarch Square. "I love this! Ramps thumbs up, steps loser," said Hidalgo.

Valley has an ADA Transition Plan Committee that collects input concerning accessibility issues. Valley's Disabled Students Services & Programs Office in the Campus Center wants input from concerned individuals about program, activity and facility accessibility on campus.

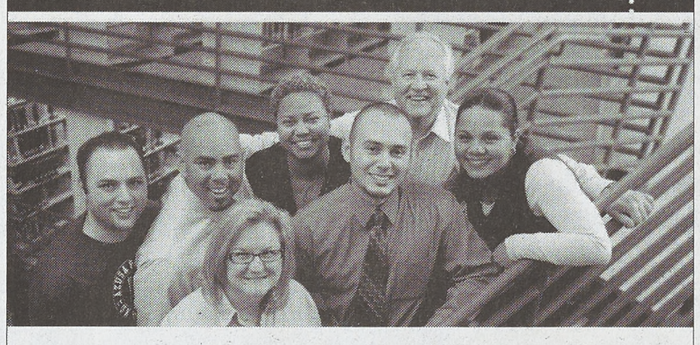
While wheelchair access ramps provide needed accessibility to disabled students, they also provide a resource for a few skateboarders who are looking for an opportunity to improvise a skateboarding ramp.

"Overall it's not a big problem," said Sheriff's Deputy Rick Baker. "We respond to any reports of skateboarding. Our first effort is to inform skaters of the no skateboarding policy on campus, but we do keep records of any people repeatedly informed through an incident report, or warning ticket. Handicapped ramps are not skateboarding ramps."

To check on the availability of the ADA Transition Plan for review, or to get the time and date of future ADA Transition Plan Committee meetings, contact the Disabled Students Services & Programs Office.

The Disabled Students Services & Programs Office is located in campus center, room 100, and is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. The center operates from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Tuesdays. Their phone number is (818) 947-2681 or TTY (818) 947-2680.

CENTER FOR ADULT AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES



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VALLEY'S CHILD DEVELOPMENT CLUB EMPHASIZES COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATION

GUADALUPE GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

The Child Development Club does more than just talk about child development and rearing children. Recently the club helped plant trees along the Los Angeles River with the Village Gardeners. They also volunteered for Step Forward at Hope Gardens, a shelter for abused women and their children. The club provided childcare services and gave the mothers a day out. Currently they are trick-or-treating for UNICEF by collecting monetary donations.

"It's not only to be involved with school but also with the community," said club Vice-President Lacey Hillinger. "And grow with the community, not only focus on books," added President Selenia Zepeda.

Majoring in child development is not mandatory for membership. Andrew Arellano studies business marketing. He is also the eldest among his siblings and extended family. He joined the club, "looking for multiple ways to communicate with kids." To be a better role model, he wanted to better understand and interact with his younger relatives.

"It's more like a family," Arellano said about the club. "You can go to them for advice and tips."

Arellano admitted to once believing Child Development was not a "guy's" major, but now he is among the more involved members. He raised the most money in the club for a walk to support research of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, a condition that inexplicably kills infants less than a year old.

More than 4,500 infants die of SIDS in the U.S. each year, according to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention. After doctors recommended babies sleep on their backs, the overall rate of SIDS in the U.S. has dropped by more than 50 percent since 1990. Still, SIDS is the leading cause of death amongst infants ages 1 - 12 months.

"I have no shame when it comes to a good cause," said Arellano.

SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

BUBBLES IN THE WIND - A toddler plays with bubbles at a child development club meeting as parents and children spend time together.

Other members see the club as a benefit toward their career. Jamie Prock is an Early Childhood Development major interested in children's advocacy issues. Prock feels that helps her network with other individuals and organizations focused on those concerns.

"It's a good opportunity to be involved with people who like to do what I do and a great way to be involved in the community," she said.

The Child Development Club meets every Thursday at 2:30 p.m. in MS110. Anyone interested is welcome to attend, even just for "personal satisfaction," as Prock puts it. "It just feels good doing more than just living."

ECO-ADVOCATES TAKE ACTION AGAINST INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS

A. RAMACHANDRAN
VALLEY STAR EDITOR

You would think it's something suited for the Guinness Book of World Records, but Eco-Advocates goals are loftier. In their latest campaign, the group joined millions worldwide who took and submitted aerial shots of people forming "350s" for Unite Now's visual petition on Oct. 24 for the International Day of Climate Action."

"Eco Advocates" at Los Angeles Valley College works to create sustainability by promoting awareness of environmental issues. They stand for environmental justice and support and contribute in all ways possible to the cause.

With the help of photographer Ryan Gabriel, Eco-Advocates member, the group added Valley College's "signature" to the petition. The goal is to lobby the United Nations to make and enforce 350 parts per million of carbon dioxide emissions the global standard. Three-hundred fifty ppm is the maximum emissions the earth can tolerate to sustain human life. Right now, the worldwide output is 387 ppm.

"Action depends on whether or not the UN as a body will accept the petition and see this as a global and as a priority for its member nations," said Candice Yamaguchi, Eco Advocates president.

Yamaguchi expects to meet with the naysayer, who believes humanity is doomed anyway and the effort is futile. She encourages such individuals not to give up on life and insists there are easier, healthier ways to live and preserve life that have less environmental impact.

The biggest source of CO2 pollution according to Yamaguchi is environmentally unfriendly manufacturing. "A standard needs to be set," she said. When asked what the group will do if the effort fails, Yamaguchi responded, "We'll just keep trying through peaceful protests and petitions.

Eco-Advocates activities on campus and within the community include clean-up days and activities that teach sustainability practices that people can use everyday.

Aaron Bobo, who is also a Political Action Coalition member, likes the ideals of the club and the idea of saving the human race. "The way we're going we're not going to be able to breathe and that concerns me especially since I have asthma," said Bobo.

The 350 mosaic is available for viewing at http://www.unitenow.org/350mosaic. The website http://www.350.org has information about carbon dioxide emissions.

Eco-Advocates meet Tues. at 3 p.m. in the Allied Health Sciences Bldg, Room 136. E-mail ecoadvocateslavc@gmail.com for more information.

THE SCOOP ON SMALLVILLE: DECONSTRUCTING CLARK KENT'S PRE-SUPERMAN ODYSSEY

VINCE DORIN &
A. RAMACHANDRAN
STAFF WRITER &
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

"Smallville" loosely tracks the action, romance and mystery of Clark Kent's life before he became Superman. It's not an exact transcription of the comic book character, but it is still enjoyable. Played by Tom Welling, Kent's dilemmas are engaging, entertaining and unpredictable because he's still learning to control his powers. To do this he relies on the help of his friends, human, superhuman and alien. The most consistent sidekick is best friend Chloe Sullivan (Allison Mack). Over the nine seasons, super friends like Zatana, Martian Manhunter, Aquaman, Cyborg, Black Canary and Flash make occasional appearances. Green Arrow (Justin Hartley) even became a cast regular.

Smallville has its fans who appreciate it as its own universe. Valley Student Carla Peralta likes the show because it has humor and it shows friendship. "Also there are romantic parts where the guy is so charming. I love the way new super characters come out and when they have villains that Clark Kent is willing to fight and to save innocent people even if he risks exposing his power. It's entertaining and exciting," said Peralta

The inconsistencies are too much for second year Valley student Ann Cruz. "I used to watch Smallville until season two," said Cruz. "I didn't like the story line. It was not accurate with the Superman comics."

The plots and the characters evolved over nine seasons, but here's a quick primer for those who want to catch up.

Seasons One and Two focused on saving people from the kryptonite-powered criminals who mutated when planet Krypton exploded and Kent and planetary fragments came to Smallville, Kansas. Viewers meet Kent's crew, Chloe and Pete Ross (Sam Jones III) and love interest Lana Lang (Kristin Kreuk).

This season the series begins the exploration of Lex Luthor's (Michael Rosenbaum) early life and presents him as a sympathetic character through his friendship with Kent and through the conflict with his father Lionel (John Glover).

The third and fourth season track a competitive search for three artifacts key to building the fortress of solitude between the Luthors and Kent. Lana Lang becomes a more active character. Viewers meet Chloe's cousin, Lois Lane (Erica Durance). Lex and Kent start to drift apart as Lex descends into darkness.

In Season Five, Kryptonians led by General Zod and Braniac (James Marsters) try to take over Earth. There is also a reversal between Lionel and Lex. Lionel assists Kent's heroics and Lex fully embraces the path of evil.

The sixth season introduces Green Arrow and Jimmy Olsen. With Aquaman, Cyborg, and The Flash, Green Arrow forms the Justice League. Together they play posse and round up Kryptonian criminals escaped from the Phantom Zone.

Season Seven introduces Kent's doppelganger Bizarro and cousin Kara. Kent also discovers the Veritas organization and learns the history of the four families of Krypton.

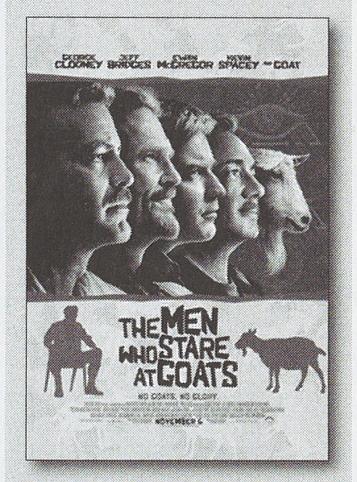
In the eighth season Kent gains greater depth and faces a challenge from super-powered nemesis Doomsday. Kent also begins working at the Daily Planet with Lois Lane and moves toward the alter ego one might know from the comic books.

The series continues to explore the tribulations of Kent and his friends in its ninth season.

Regardless of how the show's fans and detractors feel, individuals looking for great introduction to the Superman mythology should definitely check out Smallville.

@THE MOVIES

OPENING THIS WEEKEND



THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS

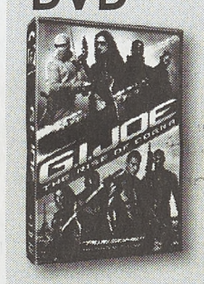
GEORGE CLOONEY, JEFF BRIDGES, EWAN MCGREGOR & KEVIN SPACEY

TOP 5 PLAYING:

- *MICHEAL JACKSON'S THIS IS IT: $21M+*
- *PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: $16M+*
- *LAW ABIDING CITIZEN: $7M+*
- *COUPLES RETREAT: $6M+*
- *SAW VI: $5M+*

MEDIA RELEASES

DVD



G.I.JOE: THE RISE OF COBRA

ALSO AVAILABLE:

- *THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123 - DENZEL WASHINGTON & JOHN TRAVOLTA*
- *STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS - THE COMPLETE SEASON*
- *ROCKY: THE UNDISPUTED COLLECTION [7 DISCS]*
- *I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER: WIDESCREEN*

MUSIC

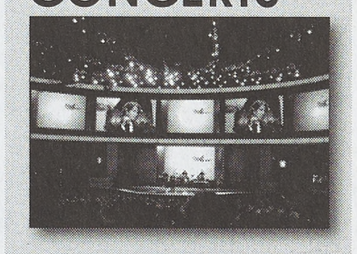
FOO FIGHTERS

GREATEST HITS

ALSO AVAILABLE:

- *CARRIE UNDERWOD - PLAY ON*
- *SLAYER - WORLD PAINTED BLOOD*
- *NIRVANA - LIVE AT READING*
- *MORRISEY - SWORDS*
- *GLEE: THE MUSIC VOL.1*

CONCERTS



- *R. KELLY: NOV. 5 NOKIA THEATRE LIVE*
- *ANITA BAKER: NOV. 7 NOKIA THEATRE LIVE*
- *JAY Z: NOV. 8 PAULEY PAVILION - UCLA*
- *CELTIC THUNDER: NOV. 8 NOKIA THEATRE LIVE*
- *DAVID GRAY: NOV. 9 ORPHEUM THEATRE*
- *THE USED: NOV. 10 THE WILTERN*
- *JOHN FOGERTY: NOV. 12 KODAK THEATRE*
- *RAY DAVIES: NOV. 14 ORPHEUM THEATRE*

DEFENSE FALTERED IN SATURDAY'S GAME AGAINST PIERCE COLLEGE

The Monarchs' 475 passing yards last Saturday night was not enough to beat the Brahmas' explosive offense.

LUCAS THOMPSON
SPORTS EDITOR

This one falls on the defense. Despite 447 passing yards against Pierce College Saturday Night, the Monarchs 28-points was no match for the 690 total offensive yards the Brahmas put up in a 45-28 victory over Valley.

"We've had trouble all year having balance on our defense, defending the run and pass," Valley Head Coach Jim Fenwick said whose team is now 3-5. "Everyone's been successful running the ball on us."

Possession would be the difference and Pierce (6-2), which had 20 more plays than Valley, never trailed, scoring its first touchdown with 4:20 left in the first quarter. Running back Alfred Taylor carried the ball for 15 yards on the score.

The Monarchs answered in the second quarter with a 42-yard touchdown pass from Bret Visciglia to Travion Odom and a 41-yard field goal from kicker Segura Wilmer with 1:09 left in the half.

Though this was the closest Valley came during the game, Pierce refused to settle before the half, completing a 52-yard touchdown pass to receiver Ty Harris with 30-seconds remaining before the break. The score gave the Brahmas a 22-10 lead.

"Bret, he's a heck of a football player, we're not gonna shut them down," Pierce Head Coach Efrain Martinez said. "I knew they would get the points, but we overcame it.... the more they're off the field, the better for us."

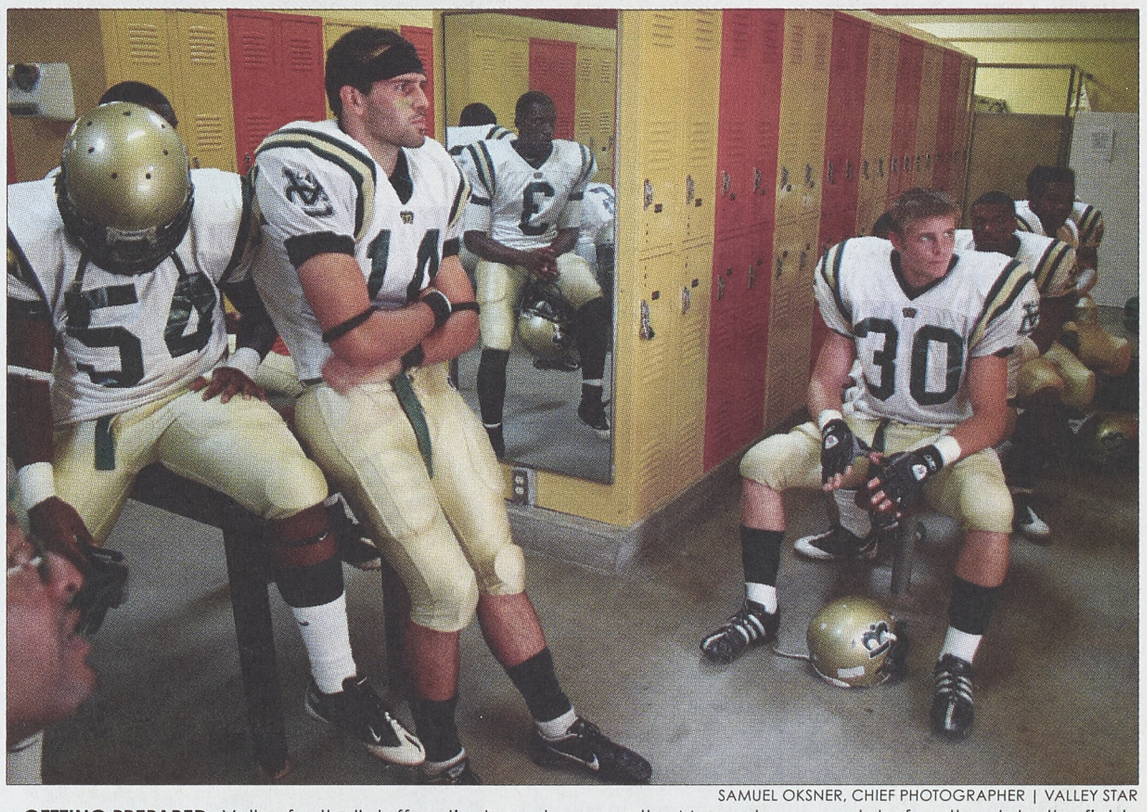
Missed opportunities would continue to plague the Valley squad, which went 1-3 in the red zone with only 24 total rushing yards in the game. The Brahmas totaled 350-yards on 65 plays.

"When you throw the ball that many times, your bound to connect once or twice...they just couldn't punch it in," Coach Martinez said.

Valley rallied in the second half with another Visciglia pass, this time to Josh Stangby for 70 yards and a touchdown. Kalan Booker's 68-yard interception return added another score for Valley. However, the defense couldn't prevent Pierce from scoring, posting 23 second-half points to Valley's 18.

Saturday's turnaround from the 50-13 victory last season against the Brahmas, points to issues that may include the inexperience and growing injury list for the Monarchs on both sides of the ball. The team, who faces Santa Barbara (2-6) at home this Saturday, looks to reconcile in their final two games of the season.

"We're gonna stay focused on the next game, which is what we've tried to do all year," Fenwick said.



SAMUEL OKSNER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR
GETTING PREPARED- Valley football staff motivate and prepare the Monarchs moments before they take the field.

SOCCER MATCH TURNS INTO DEFENSIVE PRACTICE FOR MONARCHS

Despite 12 saves by Valley goalie Stephanie Ortega, the Monarchs fell to College of the Canyons 4 - 1 on Friday.

CHARLES RANDLE
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College Monarchs (6-9-1) could not seem to find a way to take advantage of an undermanned College of the Canyons squad and returned home Friday from Santa Clarita with a 5-1 loss.

By the day's end, the Cougar players showed the stamina and skill level needed to pull off a lopsided win against the Monarchs and kept themselves in playoff contention.

Under a constant barrage of kicks from the Cougars, Valley spent the majority of the game deflecting shots on goal. College of the Canyons started the day with a roster that suited 11 players, which allowed for no substitutions The Cougars kept the pressure on the Monarchs' goalie Stephanie Ortega whose solid play gobbled up 12 saves in the losing effort.

"They are good team with good players, and we lost one our best players which made it tough," Ortega said.

Eventually the Cougars cracked the Monarch defense with a score from COC player Michelle Malette. Two minutes later the Monarchs offense answered back, scoring its lone goal with a corner kick by freshman Gloria Almaraz. With Valley's premier player Rosie Garcia going down with a toe injury, the Cougars became more aggressive. With minutes left in the second period, Cougars infielder, Katherine Hall scored a second goal which gave COC a 2-1 lead.

Towards the end of the game, Cougar forward Sarina Coutin scored on a penalty kick that was followed by another goal less than two minutes later assisted by Katherine Hall, making it a comfortable 4-1 lead for the Cougars.

"You know its pretty much win or go home for us right now so even though we were shorted handed these girls are strong and fit and I really feel like they showed that today," said Cougar Head Coach Justin Lundin.

College of the Canyons played like a team with playoff intentions in mind, as Nicole Quintanilla scored the final goal with less than a second left in regulation that capped the team's dominant performance.

"Our goalie really kept us in a position to win but we couldn't take advantage of the few chances that were created, but hats off to them they had no subs and they pulled it off," Valley Head Coach Shane Watkins said.

DANE NAIMY | VALLEY STAR

DANE NAIMY | VALLEY STAR
NEVER GIVE UP- Coach Shane Watkins, Head Coach of the LAVC soccer team, lectures his players during half-time.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM LOOKING FOR SUCCESS ON AND OFF THE COURT

Newly appointed Head Coach Jay Warner looks forward to tip-off this season with his mostly freshmen team.

RUBI MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

Emerald-white uniforms and sneakers ready, inspiration and determination will be the motto of this year's Women's Basketball team. First year Head Coach Jay Warner is not alone, joining a team made up of mostly freshmen athletes, with the exception of returning players Stephanie Woods and Floral Gabrielyan.

"I expect us to play hard all the time, to play together all the time and play smart. Wins and losses will come, but wins will come if those things come together, so I'm not concerned with that. I'm more concerned about the hardest part." Warner said.

Expectations for academics of his players are also a major concern of Warner's. It's not because players aren't strong students but because he expects the players to be successful on and off the court.

"I expect that they're good students and they go to class and that they're able to go on to a four-year school. Whether it's through a scholarship or not, that's very important...the academic side," Warner said.

Forward Elfega De La Hoya has hopes to improve last year's performance for the team, "We need to redeem ourselves and look better than last year...Just trying to pick it up."

Valley placed sixth last year in the Western Sate-South Division of the California Community College Athletic Association. The team placed 1-11 in the conference and 5-24 overall. The Monarchs have placed sixth every year since 2005 with the exception of 2006-2007, where they placed fourth.

Coach Warner has yet to announce the official team captain; although he did mention the four strongest players that are showing skills and leadership qualities, Porcha Davis from Monroe High, Briana Smyth from Taft High and sisters Chrystal "Chip" and Chrissell "Kookie"Taloma.

With 22 years under his belt, Warner is experienced in more than just basketball. From football, baseball to track and field, Warner has been coaching since 1999 for Valley. After '07 Warner took a break to pursue his master's degree in physical education and now returns as the women's basketball head coach.

When asked why he decided to coach basketball,Warner said, "I'd played many sports, I was good in many sports, not great in one sport...I like coaching basketball because of the intimacy, the fact that you are coaching 15 players and I just felt basketball is such a cool sport. I love the agility and the team oriented style you have to play to be successful."

WOMEN'S WATER POLO CAN'T HANG WITH CITRUS COLLEGE

LUCAS THOMPSON
SPORTS EDITOR

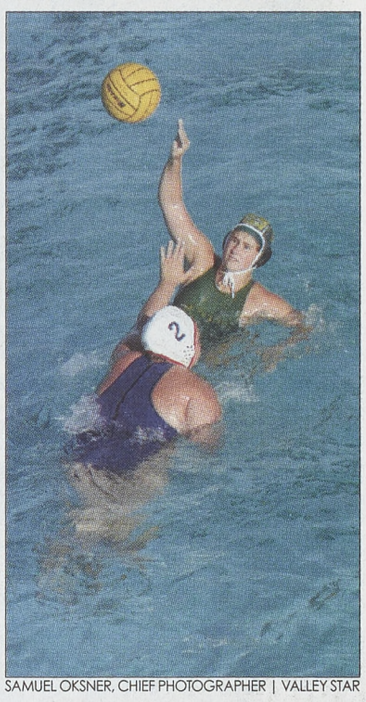
It wasn't a good week for the women's water polo team as it dropped three straight matches, including a Western State Conference match against Citrus College. The team also dropped its only two games over the weekend at the Fullerton Mini-Tournament.

The team entered its match against Citrus with an overall record of 4-16 and a 0-3-conference mark. The visiting Owls pounded the Valley defense by scoring 13 goals, while the Monarchs could only put up seven.

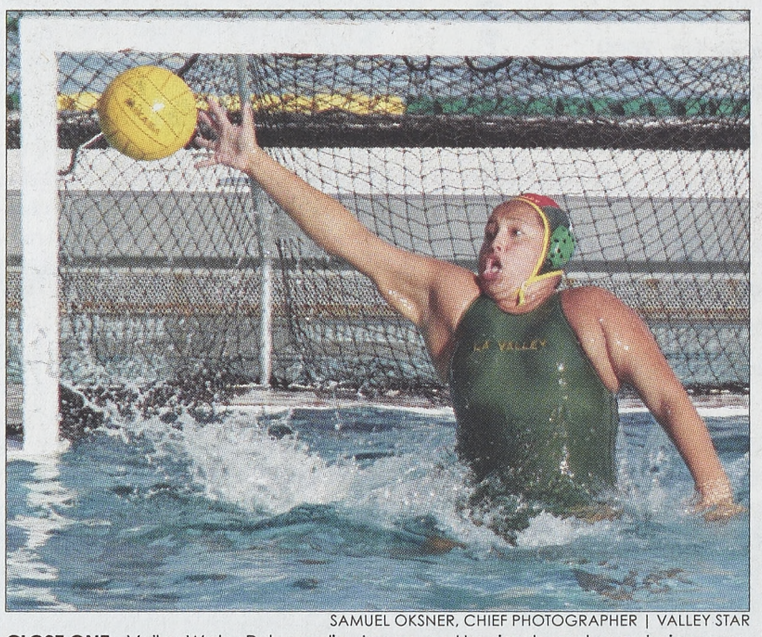
The Mini-Tournament took place at Fullerton College and added two more losses to the Monarchs' record, losing back-to-back games against Fullerton and Mt. San Antonio colleges.

Fullerton outscored the Monarchs 16-5 in the first game of the tournament, and lost 14-3 against Mt. San Antonio, 14-3. In the last three games the Monarchs have been outscored 41-13.

Valley will host the Western State Conference Championship this weekend, which will conclude the season for the Monarchs.



SAMUEL OKSNER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR



SAMUEL OKSNER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR
CLOSE ONE - Valley Water Polo goalie, Jaxxmyne Urquirants, makes a daring save.

SCHEDULES

Women's Soccer: Away
Nov. 6th 7 p.m.
Vs. Glendale College

Cross Country: Away
Nov. 6th 10 a.m.
So Cal Finals @ Mt. Sac

Women's Water Polo: Home
Nov. 6th-7th TBA
WSC Championship

Football: Home
Nov. 7th 7 p.m.
vs. Santa Barbara